

Unusual Places

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The Giant Crystal Cave: a Mexican Wonder Underground

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The city of Chihuahua, Mexico, hides one of the world's greatest treasures, which became a landmark for the location. In the Naica mine dozens of large crystals have been lying for over a century. Since most of the crystals weight over 55 tons, they hold a record for the largest selenite crystals in the world. Even though it's been over 100 years since the discovery, the seemingly surreal location kept its title.

Back in the 18th century, when silver was worth a lot in Mexico, the Naica mine was discovered, when workers struck a silver vein. Later on, at the beginning of the 20th century, large scale mining began. Just before the Naica mine was officially closed in 1911, the Giant Crystal Cave was discovered. Because of its spectacular natural location, locals decided to keep it safe from being destroyed, so the cave is protected by law.

However, it wasn't until 2000 that two researchers, Juan and Pedro Sanchez, rediscovered the cave again while searching the Naica cave; and what they saw was unforgettable. Over 900 feet underground, lies a large chamber filled with dozens of giant crystals.

```
function countSpaces(str) {  
  // What's missing?  
}  
a) return str.indexOf(' ');  
b) return str.split(' ').length  
c) return str.count(' ') - 1;  
d) return str.words().length - 1
```

job_offers = quiz



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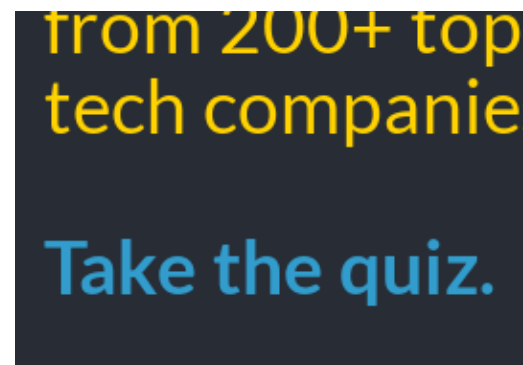
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Each crystal has a diameter of at least 12 feet and weights over 55 tons. Apparently, the crystals created due to the magma underground and are over 500,000 years old. In time, natural phenomena shaped them uniquely and the result is definitely amazing to anybody who gets to see them.

While the cave provides anyone with a once-in-a-lifetime view, staying there is nearly impossible without the proper equipment. The average temperature in the main chamber is 58 degrees Celsius(136.4), which may cause death for anyone, who stays there longer than 10 minutes. On top of that, climbing the crystals is quite difficult, which is why the cave can be visited only with specialists nearby.

The legend says that selenite, which is gypsum crystal, provides people with healing benefits and makes people, who touch them look younger. The Greek goddess of the moon, named Selenite, offered luck and emotional stability, which is why the Giant Crystal Cave is thought to be not only a spectacular, unique place, but also a magical one.

Submitted by Hamid Bagha. Thank you



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